

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8087

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MORE STATE GOVERNMENTS AGREE TO COW-SLAUGHTER BAN

REF: NEW DELHI 12344

1. WITH DEADLINE OF VINOBA BHAVE'S HUNGER-STRIKE DEMANDING AN INDIAN-WIDE BAN ON SLAUGHTER OF COWS LESS THAN TWO WEEKS OFF, MORE STATE GOVERNMENTS HAVE EITHER TOTALLY BANNED COW-SLAUGHTER OR DECLARED THEIR INTENTION OF DOING SO.

2. THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT AUG 30 BANNED THE SLAUGHTER OF COWS AND HEIFERS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. THE HYDERABAD PRESS ON AUG 31 REPORTED THAT CHIEF MINISTER VENGAL RAO ANNOUNCED THE ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO IMPOSE A COMPLETE BAN ON COW-SLAUGHTER. LEGISLATION FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE NEXT SESSION OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE. BOMBAY MARATHI PRESS AUG 31 REPORTED THAT MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER S.B. CHAVAN STATED IN NEW DELHI AFTER AN AUG 30 MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI THAT HIS STATE WILL SOON PASS LEGISLATION BANNING COW-SLAUGHTER. THERE IS ALREADY SUCH A BAN IN THE VIDURBHA REGION OF THE STATE, AND IN THE

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REST OF MAHARASHTRA, THERE IS A "PARTIAL" BAN ON COW-

SLAUGHTER. IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND TAMIL NADU TOO, THERE IS
"PARTIAL" BAN ON KILLING COWS.

3. A HINDU (MADRAS) STORY ON AUG 31 INDICATES THAT "THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE TAKING STEPS TO BAN THE SLAUGHTER OF COWS AND CALVES IN AREAS WHERE SUCH A BAN IS NOT ALREADY IN EXISTENCE" AND ARE "ENFORCING THE EXISTING BAN WITH GREATER DETERMINATION AS PART OF A WIDER EFFORT TO SUPPLEMENT THE RURAL ECONOMY BY PRESERVING AND IMPROVING THE BREEDS OF MILCH AND DRAFT ANIMALS." ARTICLE STATES THAT "A NUMBER OF STATES HAVE BEEN RECEIVING REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR A STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF THE EXISTING BAN AS WELL AS AN EXTENSION OF THE PARTIAL BAN FOR COMPLETELY PROHIBITING THE SLAUGHTER OF COWS AND CALVES," AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT "IN ENFORCING OR EXTENDING THIS BAN, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE WHOLLY MOTIVATED BY THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE CATTLE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY'S RURAL LIFE, NOT BY ANY RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS." IT THEN SAYS THAT: "WHILE STATES LIKE TAMIL NADU AND KERALA ARE TAKING STEPS TO ENFORCE THE BAN IN THE LIGHT OF PREVAILING LOCAL CONDITIONS, OTHERS LIKE ANDHRA PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA, WHERE A PARTIAL BAN ALREADY EXISTS IN TERMS OF THE AREAS COVERED OR THE CATEGORIES OF CATTLE, ARE INTRODUCING A DEGREE OF UNIFORMITY IN ITS APPLICATION." A THIRD CATEGORY OF STATES, "LIKE WEST BENGAL WHERE A BAN ALREADY EXISTS ARE STEPPING UP THE ENFORCEMENT." ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT "THE EXPECTATION IS THAT BY THE END OF THE YEAR THERE WILL BE AN UNVARYING APPLICATION OF THE BAN ALL OVER THE COUNTRY EXCEPT IN THE HILL AREAS OF THE NORTH EAST REGION WITH DIFFERENT CUSTOMS AND ECONOMIC VALUES" AND POINTS OUT THAT "THE WHOLE ACCENT HEREFTER WILL BE ON PRESERVING AND IMPROVING THE BREEDS OF CATTLE BY ENFORCING STRICTLY THE BAN ON THE SLAUGHTER OF NOT ONLY COWS AND CALVES BUT ALSO OTHER CATEGORIES OF MILCH AND DRAUGHT CATTLE WHICH ARE VITAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ECONOMY." CONCLUDING SENTENCE OF THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT "THE TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY WHICH HAS SET THE PATTERN FOR SIMILAR ACTION BY OTHER STATES HAS THEREFORE BEEN WIDELY WELCOMED IN POLITICAL CIRCLES" IN DELHI.

4. CONGEN CALCUTTA INFORMED US AUG 31 THAT COW SLAUGHTER CONTINUES TO BE A NON-ISSUE IN WEST BENGAL. THERE IS NO DISLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CUSSION IN THE PRESS OR AS FAR AS THE CONGEN KNOWS IN ANY SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC CIRCLES OF A COW-SLAUGHTER BAN. THE CONGEN'S BEST ESTIMATE REMAINS THAT SUCH A BAN WILL NOT HAPPEN IN WEST BENGAL.

5. THIS MESSAGE WAS PREPARED ON THE BASIS OF REPORTS FROM THE THREE CONGENS. NONE OF THE PRESS REPORTS APPEARING OFFER ANY HINT THAT ALL THIS ACTIVITY RELATES TO VINOBE BHAVE'S THREATENED

FAST.
SAXBE

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